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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling locking a lid of a washing machine, the washing machine including an agitation element and a basket, said method comprising the steps of:

sensing a spin speed associated with a spin speed of at least one of the agitation element and the basket~~[[.]] such that the sensed speed is independent of oscillations of the agitation element and the basket; and~~

causing the lid to be locked when the sensed spin speed exceeds a first predetermined speed~~[[.]]~~;

after the first predetermined speed is reached, causing the lid to remain locked until a second predetermined speed is reached that is less than the first predetermined speed; and

causing the lid to be unlocked when the sensed spin speed is below the second predetermined speed.

2. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein sensing a spin speed comprises the step of sensing rotation of a drive shaft for driving at least one of the agitation element and the basket.

3. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the drive shaft extends from a clutch system and at least one magnet is secured to the shaft, and a sensor, and wherein sensing spin speed comprises the steps of:

operating the sensor to generate a signal when the at least one magnet passes by the sensor; and

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generating a voltage signal representative of a spin speed based on the sensor generated signal~~[[,]] such that the voltage signal is independent of oscillations in the drive shaft.~~

4. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 3 wherein the sensor generated signal is a square wave, and wherein a frequency to voltage converter is utilized to generate a voltage signal from the sensor generated square wave signal.

5. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein causing the lid to be locked when the sensed spin speed exceeds a first predetermined speed comprises the step of energizing a lid lock solenoid with the sensed spin speed exceeds the first predetermined speed.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A lid lock system for a washing machine, the washing machine including a lid, an agitation element, a basket, and a transmission and clutch system, the transmission and clutch system including a drive shaft coupled to the agitation element and basket for causing the agitation element and basket to spin, said lid lock system comprising:

a sensor for generating an output signal associated with a spin speed of at least one of the agitation element and basket~~[[,]] said output signal being independent of oscillations of the agitation element and the basket;~~

a lid lock solenoid for controlling operation of a lid lock; and

a control circuit for energizing the lid lock solenoid based on the sensor output signal~~[[,]]~~.

wherein said control circuit energizes said solenoid to lock the lid when the sensor output signal is indicative of a speed that exceeds a first predetermined speed, maintains the lid

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in the locked condition until the sensor output signal is indicative of a second predetermined speed less than the first predetermined speed after the first predetermined speed is reached, and de-energizes said solenoid to unlock the lid when the sensor output signal is indicative of a speed that is below the second predetermined speed.

9. (original) A lid lock system according to Claim 8 further comprising at least one magnet secured to the drive shaft.

10. (original) A lid lock system according to Claim 8 wherein the sensor comprises a Hall effect sensor.

11. (original) A lid lock system according to Claim 8 wherein the control circuit comprises at least one flip flop.

12. (original) A lid lock system according to Claim 11 wherein the control circuit further comprises a timer.

13. (original) A lid lock system according to Claim 8 wherein the control circuit comprises a frequency to voltage converter.

14. (currently amended) A washing machine comprising:

a cabinet comprising an opening;

a lid movable from and between an open position and a closed position over said opening;

a lid lock for locking said lid in a closed position;

a basket mounted within said cabinet;

an agitation element mounted within said basket;

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a drive system coupled to said agitation element and to said basket; and

a lid lock circuit comprising a sensor for generating an output signal associated with a spin speed of at least one of said agitation element and basket, ~~said output signal being independent of oscillations of said agitation element and said basket~~, a lid lock solenoid for controlling operation of said lid lock, and a control circuit for energizing said lid lock solenoid based on the sensor output signal[.],

wherein said control circuit energizes said solenoid to lock said lid when the sensor output signal is indicative of a speed that exceeds a first predetermined speed, maintains said lid in the locked condition until the sensor output signal is indicative of a second predetermined speed less than the first predetermined speed after the first predetermined speed is reached, and de-energizes said solenoid to unlock said lid when the sensor output signal is indicative of a speed that is below the second predetermined speed.

15. (original) A washing machine according to Claim 14 wherein said lid lock circuit further comprises at least one magnet secured to the drive shaft.

16. (original) A washing machine according to Claim 14 wherein said sensor comprises a Hall effect sensor.

17. (original) A washing machine according to Claim 8 wherein said control circuit comprises at least one of a flip flop, a timer, and a frequency to voltage converter.

18. (canceled)